



Industrial Fire & Safety Section  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
8251 Greensboro Drive Suite 650  
McLean, VA 22102



To: IF&S Section Members  
From: Dan King  
Date: April 10, 2025

Participating in the meeting at FDIC:

Dan King  
Rick Setzer  
Eddie Avila  
Roy Robichaux  
Rick Isaacks  
Rick Hasse  
Bob Royall  
Ken LaSala  
Josh Culp  
Jim White  
John Woulfe

- Meeting came to order – 1033 hours EDT
- Approval of March's meeting minutes
  - ✓ Eddie Avila - Approve
  - ✓ Rick Setzer - Second
- Financial report:
  - ✓ \$34,789 remaining in net assets
  - ✓ Rick Setzer will send the 2025 budget request to the IAFC for approval
- ISFA President Josh Waldo
  - ✓ Wildfire is becoming more of a national problem. Fires in South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, New York, and PA.
  - ✓ Bills are flying around in DC, and we've got a freshman senator out of Montana who's very interested in producing some new legislation.
  - ✓ We're excited about FRI being in Orlando this year, August 13th through August 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be a great event at the Orange County Convention Center.
  - ✓ I appreciate all the work you do
- OSHA 1910.156 update – Ken LaSala
  - ✓ The IAFC formed a review team to address proposed changes to OSHA standards, raising concerns about incorporating NFPA standards, costs, and impacts on volunteer and frontier fire departments.
  - ✓ Written comments were submitted on July 11th, and an administrative hearing took place on November 12th, where Chief Matt Tobia represented the IAFC.
  - ✓ Concerns included:
    - Equal standards for career and volunteer firefighters.
    - Exemptions for volunteer and frontier departments due to economic constraints.
    - Mental and physical health requirements.

- ✓ The IAFC requested a 10-year implementation period instead of OSHA's proposed 2 years.
  - ✓ OSHA is reviewing comments and revising the rule, which will then go to OMB for review before final publication. Progress seems stalled, but the IFF continues to advocate for the regulation.
  - ✓ The IAFF endorsed Labor Secretary Lori Chavez, expecting her to advance the rulemaking process.
  - ✓ FEMA suspended all in-person training at the National Fire Academy in early March to align with administration priorities. Some online training may still be available.
  - ✓ NIOSH was effectively eliminated, leaving only three staff members for the firefighter cancer registry. Death investigations are being finalized before staff reductions take effect.
    - The lab responsible for certifying respirators like N95 masks has shut down, raising concerns about future certification processes.
  - ✓ The head of NIOSH was laid off but later reinstated to oversee the program. Participants can still receive medical screenings, but research and epidemiology staff were laid off.
  - ✓ The US Forest Service, US Fire Administration, and DHS have seen significant staff reductions, including early retirement offers.
  - ✓ FEMA and DHS are manually reviewing funding requests, slowing down disbursements for fire-related grants. Some grants tied to immigration policies face additional scrutiny.
  - ✓ AFG Peer reviews for fiscal year 2024 have been completed, but no awards have been issued yet. Application periods for SAFER and Fire Prevention & Safety grants have not started.
- IAFC Hazmat Committee – Bob Royall
    - ✓ The HAZMAT committee is focusing on various initiatives to advance industrial response and hazardous material management.
    - ✓ The Annual HAZMAT Response Teams Conference is June 12–15, with the committee meeting on June 11 at the Baltimore Hilton.
    - ✓ Bulk Energy Storage Systems Working Group meeting is on June 10 at the same venue, addressing challenges in the transportation of large energy storage units.
    - ✓ Opening Session & Keynote Address: June 13 in the grand ballroom of the Hilton.
    - ✓ The HAZMAT Roundtable at EMI (National Fire Academy): May 13–14, focused on collaborative safety strategies.
    - ✓ Bulk Energy Storage Systems: Examining safe transportation methods for larger battery-driven units, particularly by rail due to weight concerns. Discussions include buffer car requirements, vandalism prevention, and flammable gas mitigation within shipping containers.
    - ✓ East Palestine OH Train Derailment Outcomes: Developing educational resources addressing vent-and-burn procedures for damaged tank cars.
    - ✓ Propane Emergency Response Certification: Partnering with NFPA, PERC, and others to establish training programs.
    - ✓ HAZMAT Center Development: Expanding resources, training, and lessons learned through FEMSA grant funding.
    - ✓ Community Safety Grant: Continuing efforts to enhance HAZMAT response capabilities.
    - ✓ Overall, the committee is actively engaging stakeholders, industry experts, and organizations like FEMSA and NFPA to address emerging concerns and enhance safety protocols.
    - ✓ Expressed gratitude to Dan and the team for their collaboration and professionalism over the years.
    - ✓ Tenure as chairman of the ISC Committee will conclude in August, with Chief Peter Jensen of the Ventura County, California, Fire Department potentially stepping into the role as chairman of the IAFC HAZMAT Committee.
  - FDIC Industrial Track – Rick Hasse
    - ✓ The FDIC industrial track has seen significant growth and interest this year. Originally anticipated to host around 60 participants, the event far exceeded expectations, closing registration at 130 attendees. This success has sparked plans for an industrial summit next year, with intentions to expand offerings by including more classes, demonstrations, and collaboration with vendors.
      - Leading up to this, several industrial-focused webinars were conducted, and there are plans to publish more articles on industrial apparatus design in magazines like *Fire Engineering* and *Fire Apparatus*. Eric Schultz, a prominent figure in the fire engineering community, is also supportive of this initiative, emphasizing the industry's need for such specialized training.

- ✓ Discussions are underway about possibly holding standalone industrial conferences in addition to FDIC events, with Texas being considered as a potential location due to its heavy industrial presence. The industrial fire summit held over the past two days has been well-received, showing promising growth potential and garnering interest from major players like chemical companies and petrochemical industries.
- ✓ Overall, the success of this year's summit and positive feedback from networking sessions highlight the demand for further industry-focused training and events. Continued efforts are being made to build momentum and establish this as a significant aspect of FDIC programming.
- CPSE – Jim White
  - ✓ The organization operates as an umbrella under the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE), which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. CPSE oversees both agency accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) and individual credentialing via the Center for Professional Credentialing. These credentials cater to roles like Chief Fire Officer, Chief Training Officer, Fire Marshal, and more.
  - ✓ Originally developed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, CPSE has evolved over decades into its current form.
  - ✓ CPSE offers a unified self-assessment model adaptable to diverse organizations, including municipal fire departments, volunteer departments, industrial agencies, and even Department of Defense installations globally.
  - ✓ The accreditation process serves as a cornerstone of your mission, enabling organizations to conduct in-depth self-assessments.
  - ✓ It has accredited 326 departments so far, with hundreds more in progress. Among these are major departments (e.g., Houston, Toronto, Fairfax County) and international entities like Saudi Aramco.
  - ✓ The model is adaptable to organizations of all sizes and types, emphasizing a "business plan" approach.
  - ✓ It ensures compliance with governance, financial planning, and operational protocols while promoting flexibility to suit unique departmental needs.
  - ✓ Beyond the U.S. and Canada, you collaborate with industrial agencies and organizations across the globe, reflecting the model's scalability.
  - ✓ The process prioritizes measurable outcomes, such as response efficiency and resource effectiveness, aligning with community or corporate objectives.
  - ✓ Growth remains steady, with recent milestones like accrediting 50 agencies, including 15 new ones during your spring conference.
  - ✓ Overall, the accreditation model helps organizations identify gaps, improve documentation, and align operations with strategic objectives. Whether it's a municipal fire department or a specialized industrial operation, the process proves to be universally applicable.
  - ✓
- IF&S Section Fire Officer Development Program (ODP)
  - ✓ Moving forward with TEEEX in developing an agreement
- Science to the Station – Sara Jahnke
  - ✓ Sarah is the president of a research-focused company that primarily studies volunteer and municipal fire services. Their research includes topics such as the physical effects of different shift lengths, like 24-hour versus 72-hour shifts, on the human body. While their focus has been broad, it has not included much research on the industrial fire service.
  - ✓ Discussing with Sarah her role in the role of industrial fire departments, highlighting the lack of research in this area. Moving forward, you plan to compile a list of key topics in the industrial and hazardous materials (hazmat) sectors that need research. This list will focus on using statistics to assess performance and improve practices rather than adhering strictly to standards. You'll gather feedback from members of your section to identify priority research areas, aiming to finalize and share this list within the next week or two.
- SESH Conference will be April 14th-17<sup>th</sup> in Tempe, AZ
- Industrial Fire School at TEEEX
  - ✓ Scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ Dan is in contact with Lee Hall for a booth
  - ✓ John will update the section's flyer and check on any remaining coins

- ✓ Dan will be checking with Lee Hall regarding a room on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 1600 hours for an in-person July board meeting
- HazMat Conference 2025 Baltimore, MD – June 12<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ Hazmat Committee on Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ Industrial Section report will be on the agenda
  - ✓ Josh Culp will check whether he can attend
- 2025 Elections
  - ✓ Five (5) applicants for four (4) board openings
    - Thom Jones – has reapplied
    - Eddie Avila has reapplied
    - Josh Culp has reapplied
    - Rick Isaacks – will not seek another term
  - ✓ John Woulfe has submitted the five applicant information to the IAFC Election liaison for submittal to the electronic voting system
- July's Board Meeting will be at TEEX. More to follow.
- The meeting adjourned at 1327 hours EST.
  - ✓ Motion – Rick Setzer
  - ✓ Second – Eddie Avila